

'Supporters were a credit'

WYCOMBE Wanderers chairman Mr Reg Williams paid a special tribute to the many fans who travelled up to support the Blues at Runcorn on Saturday.

"I would like to express the club's appreciation of the marvellous support we were given at Runcorn. Everyone was pleased with the organisation of the special train laid on by the Supporters Club and apart from one small incident, their behaviour was a credit to the town.

"As chairman of the club I was proud of their conduct."

The small trouble referred to by the chairman concerned a bottle throwing incident at Crewe station where a handful of youths were apprehended by

the police. Club stewards on the train reported no other incidents.

As to the game itself, several controversial incidents angered some of the Wycombe players. John Maskell, the Blues goalkeeper, was convinced Runcorn's second goal was handled by Whitbread, a view supported by Alan Phillips.

Peter Cruse felt cheated when Wycombe were robbed of a penalty in the second half. Said Cruse: "The linesman had a perfect view of the offence and when I went over

to tell him to see the referee, he said it was a definite penalty. But then he changed his mind and we were given an indirect free-kick. There was no way it could have been indirect for a handball."

The players' dissatisfaction with the officials was understandable. Both linesmen were weak and indecisive particularly with the controversial incidents while the referee failed to cut out some vicious Runcorn tackling early in the game.

It may sound like sour grapes after their 2-1 defeat, but for such an important game as this, it was a tragedy the officials did not match the standard of football produced by the players. ● Stuart Earp